

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln. No: 09/941,979  
Applicant: Akihiro Tatsuta, et al.  
Filed: August 29, 2001  
Title: SIGNAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, TRANSMISSION DEVICE,  
RECEPTION DEVICE, SIGNAL DISTRIBUTION METHOD,  
TRANSMISSION METHOD, RECEPTION METHOD, MEDIUM  
AND INFORMATION ASSEMBLY  
TC/A.U.: 2614  
Examiner: Creighton H. Smith

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**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop 313(c)  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO/SB/08a PTO/SB/08b form submitted herewith. A copy of the references listed on the PTO/SB/08a and PTO/SB/08b form is enclosed.

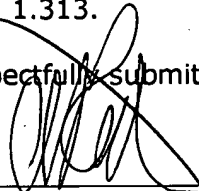
Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

These references were cited by a foreign patent examining authority in connection with the examination of a counterpart of the above identified application. A copy of this Japanese language search report, indicating the degree of relevance determined by the foreign patent office is submitted herewith. MPEP Section 609A(3), second paragraph.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with an RCE application, after the payment of the Issue Fee and is accompanied by a Petition to Withdraw the Application from Issue under 37 C.F.R. § 1.313.

Respectfully submitted,



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Allan Ratner, Reg. No. 19,717  
Attorney for Applicants

AR/dmw

Enclosures: PTO/SB/08a and PTO/SB/08b  
(5) References  
Japanese Office Action  
Transmittal Form

Dated: June 6, 2006

P.O. Box 980  
Valley Forge, PA 19482  
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand delivered to the USPTO, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 6, 2006.

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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

SHEET 1 of 2

**Complete if Known**

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Application Number   | 09/941,979              |
| Filing Date          | August 29, 2001         |
| First Named Inventor | Akihiro Tatsuta, et al. |
| Art Unit             | 2614                    |
| Examiner Name        | Creighton H. Smith      |
| Attorney Docket No.  | MTS-3272US              |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                                    | Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|---|
|                    |                       | Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)         |                               |   |   |
|                    |                       | US-2005/0152462<br>(corresponds to JP 2000-209086) | 07/14/2005                    | AKIHIRO TATSUTA ET AL                           |   |
|                    |                       | US-  |                               |   |   |
|                    |                       | US-  |                               |   |   |
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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS****FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup>           |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|
|                    |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                               |   |   |                          |
|                    |                       | JP 8-149453 A (with English abstract)   | 06/07/1996                    | MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD.                 |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    |                       | JP 9-102939 A (with English abstract)   | 04/15/1997                    | SUMITOMO ELECTRIC IND LTD                       |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    |                       | JP 2000-209086 A (corresponds to US 2005/0152462)                                   | 07/28/2000                    |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|                    |                       | JP 9-307875 A (with English abstract)   | 11/28/1997                    | MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD                  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

<sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

<sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.

<sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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| Examiner Name        | Creighton H. Smith      |
| Attorney Docket No.  | MTS-3272US              |

SHEET 2 of 2

**NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | T <sup>2</sup>           |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
|                       |                          | Japanese Office Action for JP 2000-266693, dated May 23, 2006.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

<sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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